

PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESS GIFT FOR OVER 500 DERBYSHIRE FIRMS

6 AUGUST 2007

Staff at Bramble Lodge Care Home near Ilkeston joined the party to celebrate the first anniversary of Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed.

Bramble Lodge Care Home is one of over 500 organisations from across Derbyshire to benefit from Train to Gain during the past year. The service aims to help companies identify and fill skills gaps within their workforce. It offers them the chance to use the skills of a specialist Skills Broker to improve their business performance by training their employees. Over 2,700 employees from across Derbyshire have accessed training worth over £3million during the past 12 months.

24 employees from a collaboration of four Derbyshire care homes, including Bramble Lodge at West Hallam and The Grange at Sandiacre along with two independent homes – Longmoor Lodge at Sandiacre and Shardlow Manor in Shardlow, have completed NVQs Level 2 and 3 in Health and Social Care – without leaving the premises. And now 17 additional employees are due to start their training.

Sue Cumberland, Manager of Bramble Lodge Care Home, said:



“We knew more or less the sort of training that we wanted but Abida, our Skills Broker, really helped us find an ideal package. She enabled us to meet three providers and through them we found one that was right for our needs – Leicester College.

“The training has been great, the college have worked really well with us and been incredibly flexible. The students have a classroom session once a fortnight in the evening and then the rest of the assessment takes place during the carers’ normal working day. The training has really fitted in with the day to day work and the feedback from all the candidates has been excellent – they’ve felt very involved and feel it’s all been relevant to their work. Everyone’s been really committed - the college, the students and all the care homes and this has helped them all achieve the qualification within six months.”

Train to Gain Skills Broker Abida Perveen said:

“Bramble Lodge Care Home has a close relationship with three other care homes in the area so they needed a very particular package of training that would be flexible enough to be rolled out across the four homes. I looked into three packages that Bramble Lodge Care Home could then choose from and they decided on Leicester College due to the flexibility.

“All companies in Derbyshire can access the Train to Gain service either by taking the Skills Pledge - a campaign to inspire people to improve their skills - or by contacting the Train to Gain helpline direct. Developing skills across the county is vital if we are to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being.”

Sue Iliffe from Leicester College said:



“Leicester College has been working in close partnership with Bramble Lodge and a number of other nursing homes in Derbyshire to provide training to meet a variety of business needs. This includes Health and Social Care NVQ’s at Levels 2, 3 and 4 and a VRQ (Vocationally Related Qualification) in Demential Awareness. The training the college has been delighted to help with has been funded through a variety of routes including Train to Gain, employers have also contributed to the cost of training for the VRQs.

“All the training and assessment takes place on site in the home with the college providing registration and internal verification. The first group of learners are just about to complete and have performed to a very high standard. In fact the whole relationship between the college and the staff and management of the homes has worked fantastically well and we look forward to continuing it.”

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs of staff from Brambles Lodge Care Home celebrating the Train to Gain first anniversary are available. Contact Helen Clarke at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
2. Train to Gain is a service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
3. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture



partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.

4. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in December 2006, warned that the UK must 'raise its game' on skills at all levels if it is to sustain and improve its position in the global economy. The Skills Pledge fulfils a key recommendation made in the review, at the heart of a new 'deal' where employers will be able to shape the skills system to meet their needs, in return for prioritising skills training at all levels.
5. The Skills Pledge is a voluntary commitment by employers to increasing the skills of their workforce for the benefit of the business.

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